

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 18482 231626Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OC-06 CCO-00 OES-07 NSF-01 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02
/044 W

-----004037 232345Z /62

R 231530Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5983
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 18482

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4
TAGS: PINT, PINS, UR
SUBJ: MEETING WITH DISSIDENT SOVIET SCIENTIST

1. ON DECEMBER 22 EMBOFF AND CONSOFF MET WITH IVAN PETROVICH LITKIN, AN UNEMPLOYED CYBERNETICIST FROM KHAR'KOV. MEETING TOOK PLACE IN CONSULAR SECTION AT EMBASSY AND WAS AT LITKIN'S REQUEST. HE STATED THAT HE IS THE LEADER OF A GROUP IN KHAR'KOV DEDICATED TO THE STUDY OF SCIENTIFIC, SOCIAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL QUESTIONS. LITKIN NOTED THAT THREE OR FOUR MEMBERS OF HIS GROUP PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN THE SENSE THAT THEY WRITE ARTICLES AND BOOKS WHICH ARE DISTRIBUTED IN SAMIZDAT. LITKIN GAVE EMBOFF COPY OF ONE OF HIS SAMIZDAT WORKS, "THEORY OF SYSTEMS OF MANAGEMENT" WHICH WE ARE POUCHING TO DEPT., (ATTN: EUR/SOV, REG. 2076407). HE ESTIMATED THAT PERHAPS SEVENTY PERSONS HAD ATTENDED MEETINGS OF THE GROUP AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER. LITKIN ALSO STATED THAT THERE IS A MUCH SMALLER BRANCH OF HIS GROUP IN TBILISI AS WELL AS ONE SYMPATHIZERIN A BRANCH OF THE LEBEDYEV INSTITUTE IN PUSHCHINO, NEAR MOSCOW, WHO LETS THE GROUP USE HIS LABORATORY FOR CERTAIN EXPERIMENTS. LITKIN CLAIMED THAT DURING ONE VISIT TO MOSCOW HE HAD MET SOME STUDENTS FROM THE PHYSICAL-MATHE-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 18482 231626Z

MATICS INSTITUTE, WHO WERE FAMILIAR WITH HIS WORKS IN SAMIZDAT. LITKIN ALSO CLAIMED TO HAVE TWICE MET ACADEMICIAN SAKHAROV, WHO HAD SAID THERE WAS NOTHING HE COULD DO TO HELP LITKIN, NOTING THE ALREADY GREAT BURDENS ON HIS TIME.

2. LITKIN STRESSED THAT THE AIM OF THE GROUP,

WHICH THE PARTICIPANTS INFORMALLY CALLED "THE PYTHAGOREANS," WAS PURELY TO STUDY SCIENTIFIC, SOCIAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL QUESTIONS. IN LITKIN'S OPINION THERE WAS NOTHING ANTI-SOVIET ABOUT THE GROUP'S ACTIVITIES. THE AUTHORITIES EVIDENTLY THINK OTHERWISE. LITKIN CLAIMED THAT HIS DOCTORAL DISSERTATION WAS REJECTED IN 1972 FOR INSUFFICIENT IDEOLOGICAL GROUNDING. HE WAS FIRED FROM HIS FORMER POSITION THE KHARKOV SECTION OF THE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF MANAGING MACHINES AND SYSTEMS, AND HAS BEEN FORCED TO SEEK PART-TIME WORK UNLOADING TRUCKS AT NIGHT. LITKIN ALSO NOTED THAT WHEN HE TRIED TO ENTER THE BRITISH EMBASSY IN NOVEMBER OF THIS YEAR HE WAS BUNDLED INTO A BLACK VOLGA BY PLAIN CLOTHESMEN AND TAKEN DIRECTLY TO "SPECIAL PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL NUMBER 14." WHICH HE SAID WAS LOCATED NEAR THE KASHIRSKIY METRO STATION. LITKIN WAS ALLEGEDLY HELD FOR ONE MONTH AND QUESTIONED BY A DOCTOR WHO ONLY IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS "ANDREY ANDREYEVICH."

3. LITKIN WAS BORN ON OCTOBER 28, 1936 IN DONETSKAYA OBLAST". HE GRADUATED IN 1960 FROM THE MILITARY AVIATION ACADEMY. HE STATED THAT HE HAS HAD TEN ARTICLES ON CYBERNETICS AND MATHEMATICS PUBLISHED IN U.S. SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS AND HAS HAD CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MOSCOW 18482 231626Z

OTHER ARTICLES PUBLISHED IN BRITISH AND WEST GERMAN JOURNALS. HIS PASSPORT LISTS HIS NATIONALITY AS RUSSIAN. LITKIN SAID THE MEMBERS OF HIS GROUP WERE MOSTLY RUSSIAN. LITKIN IS MARRIED AND HAS ONE DAUGHTER. HE STATED THAT HIS WIFE IS DIVORCING HIM. HE DOES NOT SPEAK ENGLISH, BUT HE MAY HAVE SOME READING KNOWLEDGE.

4. LITKIN HAS TELEPHONED THE EMBASSY SEVERAL TIMES SEEKING HELP IN CONTACTING WESTERN SCIENTISTS AND IN ARRANGING FOR A VISIT TO THE WEST, REFERRING FREQUENTLY TO THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE IN MAKING THESE APPEALS FOR ASSISTANCE. AN EMBOFF AGREED TO MEET LITKIN IN FRONT OF THE EMBASSY IN NOVEMBER, BUT HE NEVER SHOWED UP. HE LATER CLAIMED THAT HE HAD BEEN DETAINED BY POLICE NEAR THE EMBASSY. LITKIN HAS TELEPHONED BRITISH SCIENCE COUNSELOR AND FRENCH SCIENCE ATTACHE. LITKIN STATED THAT HE HAD APPLIED FOR PERMISSION TO EMIGRATE TO THE U.S. TWICE BUT HAS BEEN TOLD IN OVIR THAT HE HAD NO CHANCE OF RECEIVING PERMISSION TO EMIGRATE BECAUSE HE HAS NO RELATIVES ABROAD.

5. LITKIN STATED THAT HE RECENTLY MET WITH A REUTERS CORRESPONDENT AND GAVE HIM SOME UNIDENTIFIED MATERIAL.

6. COMMENT. WE HAVE NO WAY OF EVALUATING THE VERACITY OF LITKIN'S REMARKS. HE IMPRESSED THE INTERVIEWING OFFICERS AS A REASONABLY ARTICULATE, AND IN MOST WAYS, INTELLIGENT, INDIVIDUAL. HIS SOCIAL THEORIES; HOWEVER, ARE DECIDELY OF THE FRINGE VARIETY. HE CLAIMED THAT MANKIND IS DIVIDED INTO TWO CATEGORIES: THE MINORITY WITH THE THE WILL TO BECOME FREE AND THE MAJORITY IN WHOM THIS WILL IS ABSENT, WHO WERE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 MOSCOW 18482 231626Z

DESCRIBED BY LITKIN AS AKIN TO ANIMALS. LITKIN STATED THAT HE WAS INTERESTED IN DETERMINING THE SOURCE OF THE FORCE WHICH PLACED PEOPLE IN THE FORMER CATEGORY, NOTING THAT HE WAS CONVINCED IT WAS A COMBINATION OF ELECTRICITY, MAGNETISM, AND GRAVITY.
TOON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETINGS, SCIENTISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MOSCOW18482
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X4
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770480-0575
Format: TEL
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771222/aaaaarya.tel
Line Count: 143
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 15c0cafd-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 139521
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEETING WITH DISSIDENT SOVIET SCIENTIST
TAGS: PINT, PINS, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/15c0cafd-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009